



Multicultural Affairs Committee (MCA)
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2011

Attendees: Cathy Drzyzgula, Crystal Carr, Samira Hussein, Washington Nsangou, Linda Plummer, Maxine Oliver, Carmen Contee, & Ken Weiss

I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

A. Review and Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes approved.

B. Old Business:

African American Heritage Celebration:

We discussed the great attendance at African American History celebration and the large crowd of people in attendance.

Arab American and Asian American Heritage Month Celebrations:

Committee members were pleased with both the Asian American and Arab American Heritage Month celebrations. Both of events were extremely well attended by the community and well organized.

Carmen asked for clarification on the budget available for the cultural events throughout the year. Maxine inquired if the performers for the Asian Pacific Heritage month were paid and requested that we make sure that we kept Ling Ling's group in mind when this kind of expenditure is utilized. Crystal responded that there is a line item in the Community Services Division budget to support Committee activities. For FY11 and FY12 \$1,800 was budgeted for this purpose. Some events have no financial costs as the City provides in-kind support, but from this point forward as part of an event's debriefing the expenditures can be presented as well.

C. New Business:

1) Recruitment of New Committee Membership:

With the recent resignations of Kenny Combs, Connie Reese, and Corbon Reese, the Committee would like to move forward with recruiting new membership. The current process is not working. Several people have expressed interest, but have not followed up. Linda suggested an ad in the Gazette, and committee members could send some suggestions for the ad. We would also ask Nivea about ethnic school personnel as

well. City staff will create a flyer to distribute to faith congregations, ethnic restaurants, Gilcrest Multicultural Center, and at community events as well as post an ad in the Gazette.

2) MCPS Residency & International Admissions Open House Event-August 16:

Plans are under away for the August event. The City sent a letter to Dr. Weast confirming the City's participation and Linda has confirmed the fruit donation from the school system. Shanthi will soon be sending out the volunteer sign-up sheet to Committee member and will order the food for the day.

3) Judging for Labor Day Parade-September 5:

Patricia (via phone on 6/10/11), Washington, and Samira confirmed their interests in participating as judges in the Labor Day Parade. Linda requested that Committee members respond back within 30 days if there is interest in volunteering and having a MCA float in this year's parade.

4) Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration- September 19:

Committee members are requested to submit suggestions for this year's theme to Nivea for consideration. Ken Weiss offered to research the possibility of Flamenco dancers for the celebration and Community Service staff will research caterers. Some suggestions for food were Junior's Chicken and Cerviche House.

***An alternative location may need to be considered as construction on the 2nd Floor of City Hall is tentatively scheduled from mid-July until September 18.**

5) American Indian Native American Heritage Month- November 14:

Carmen offered to contact Keith Colston with Governor's Office to explore possible themes for this year's celebration.

6) Request for Census Data Update:

Carmen requested updated 2010 Census Data and Crystal agreed to get this to Committee members to review.

7) Charity Concert at the City Hall Pavilion on July 19:

The City is assisting with a Charity Concert on July 19 that will both raise funds for a school in Tanzania and facilitate a musical exchange between Lakelands Middle School and the Tanzanian students. Committee members expressed interest in getting involved and Crystal will follow-up with the planning committee on this request.

8) Exploratory Planning Committee for African American Heritage Month:

Carmen suggested the creation of an exploratory committee for the February 2012 African American Month Celebration that would focus on African entrepreneurs. The Committee agreed that it was a worthwhile pursuit and suggested to follow-up with

the African American Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Office of Economic Development, East Coast Jazz Festival, and Women's Business Center. Patricia offered to assist Carmen with this initiative when calling on June 10 for a briefing on the June 9 meeting.

II. NEXT MEETING:

July 14, 2011 at 7:00PM in the Wells Robertson House Facility-Conference Room

As a reminder, October 10, 2011 is the MCA's scheduled date for the work session presentation to the Mayor and City Council.

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Crystal Carr
Community Services Director**